

REMARKS

Prior to this Amendment, Claims 1-29 were pending in the application. Claims 18-28 were withdrawn from consideration. In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0167677 A1 to Bitzer; Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bitzer in view of US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0072347 A1 to Dunko et al.; and Claims 4-6 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bitzer in view of US Patent No. 6,023,714 to Hill et al. Claims 7-8 and 13-15 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but found otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 16-17 are allowed.

As indicated above, Claims 7-9 and 12 have been amended and Claims 1-6 and 29 have been cancelled. No new matter has been presented. Claims 7-17 are now pending, with Claims 7 and 16 as independent Claims.

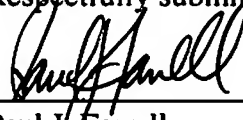
Objected to Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim 4 and intervening Claims 5-6, and is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to Claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-15 are dependent claims, and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given above with regard to their respective independent Claim 7.

PATENT APPLICATION
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Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 7-17, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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